

Name: **Castle Basin WY-030-28N86W36-2012**

FORM 1

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Inventory Findings on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness inventory information on all or part of this area?

No ☐ X ☒ Yes ☐ _____ (if yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the names of those areas):

a) Inventory Source: N/A

b) Inventory Area Name(s)/Number(s): _N/A

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): N/A

d) BLM District (s)/Field Office(s): __N/A_____

2. BLM Inventory Finds on Record:

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area): N/A

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

a. Area Number/Name: **Castle Basin WY-030-28N86W36-2012** Acreage 7,736.55

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes ☒X_____ No _____

Describe the boundaries of the area (roads, property lines, etc.). If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check “Yes” and describe the exception. If more than one inventory area is involved, list the acres in each and evaluate each area/sub-area separately. In completing steps (1) – (5), use additional space as necessary.

The unit is bound on the west and south by Carbon County Rd. 497. The unit is bound on the northeast by Carbon County Rd. 305. The unit is bound on the southeast by private land. The unit surrounds one section of state land in the central portion of the unit (T28N, R86W, S36).

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: The Castle Basin area under consideration is 7736.55 acres of BLM public land. The unit contains the following townships:

TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION	TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION
t27n	r86w	23	t28n	r85w	33
t27n	r86w	22	t28n	r85w	32
t27n	r86w	13	t28n	r85w	31
t27n	r86w	14	t28n	r86w	36
t27n	r86w	15	t28n	r86w	35
t27n	r85w	7	t28n	r86w	34
t27n	r86w	12	t28n	r85w	29
t27n	r86w	11	t28n	r85w	30
t27n	r86w	10	t28n	r86w	25
t27n	r85w	5	t28n	r86w	26
t27n	r85w	6	t28n	r85w	19
t27n	r86w	1	t28n	r86w	24
t27n	r86w	2	t28n	r85w	18
t27n	r86w	3			

The topography consists, primarily, of rolling prairie, buttes, hills, and other drainages created by East Arkansas Creek, Sand Creek and drainages leading into Castle Basin. Elevation ranges from 6400 feet on the hilltops above the drainages to, approximately, 6100 feet at the bottom of the drainages. The dominant vegetation cover is Mountain Big Sagebrush on the slopes and uplands

of the unit and wet meadow cover along creeks and draws. The primary land use is livestock grazing. The primary, dispersed recreational activity in the area is hunting.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A ☐

Description: The 34.37 miles of primitive routes (i.e., unimproved roads and two-track trails) detract from the unit's naturalness. Examples of these primitive routes and wilderness inventory roads are demonstrated in photos 1-2 and 6-7. When hiking across the Castle Basin Unit, the casual observer cannot escape the constant view of primitive routes. These primitive routes create noticeable linear intrusions and disturbances that interrupt the experience of any wilderness character briefly encountered in areas untrammelled by the works of man.

The numerous range improvements, including one spring, three water wells, 8.27 miles of fence, a large steel corral (see Photo 8), and range construction equipment (i.e., trailer and pipes in Photo 2), were installed, primarily, to support commercial grazing operations. These improvements give the casual observer a perception that they are visitors to a cattle range rather than a wilderness untrammelled by the works of man. While the presence of cattle is compatible with a natural landscape for wilderness inventory purposes, the noticeable presence of numerous grazing-related developments in this unit is not.

In sum, the cumulative impacts on naturalness including the numerous primitive routes and permanent range improvements have impaired the naturalness in the Castle Basin Unit to a level that is incompatible with the definitions of wilderness provided in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (incorporated in FLPMA 1976):

A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

(3) Does the area or the remainder of the area (if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

(4) Does the area or the remainder of the area (if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational scenic or historical value)?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

Summary of Analysis

Area Name and/or Number: Castle Basin WY-030-28N86W36-2012

Summary

Results of analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities of solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

Check one:

_____ The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

__X__ The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by: Christopher D. Jones

Team members:

Name	Title
Chris Jones	BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner
Robert Epp	BLM Range Management Specialist
Lynn McCarthy	BLM GIS Specialist
Natasha Keierleber	BLM Archaeologist
Kelly Owens	BLM Hydrologist
Kelly Fischer	BLM Wildlife Specialist
Nyle Layton	BLM Minerals Physical Scientist
Tim Novotny	BLM AFM Resources
Fred Peck	BLM Recreation Assistant

Reviewed by:

Dennis Carpenter, Field Manager

Date: _____